

# Arizona Criminal Justice Commission



## Views and News

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity, and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

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## Byrne/JAG funding cut again in FFY06

The president signed the Commerce-Justice State/Science Appropriations bill in November, and the news is not good. In FFY 06, the State of Arizona will face another devastating cut to funding for the Byrne/Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program, a 40 percent reduction from FFY 05, receiving approximately \$5.7 million (subject to the 60/40 split between state and local government, with ACJC administering approximately \$3.6 million). The overall fiscal impact for the programs administered through the SAA (ACJC) is a two-year combined reduction of 67 percent from FFY 04 to FFY 06.

Byrne/JAG funds the state's drug task forces and tandem prosecution projects according to the goals set out in the [2004-2007 Strategy for Arizona Drug, Gang and Violent Crime Control](#). For more information on the impact of these cuts, please see ACJC's [JAG Impact Statement](#). The FY06 Byrne/JAG grant announcement will be posted to the ACJC web site in February.

## ACJC SAC wins national web award

The Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) presented ACJC's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) with its "Best SAC Web Site" award last fall. SAC web sites across the country were judged on the quality and usefulness of the information available on their Web sites. SAC Director Steve Ballance credits the win to the [SAC unit's web page](#) redesign, which features an interactive GIS mapping function, the Internet Mapping and Analysis Project (IMAP). IMAP was developed through a grant from the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The winning site was chosen based on criteria set for content, technical quality and aesthetics. The award has been presented annually since 1997.

## Wills for Heroes offers free legal services to first responders

The Wills for Heroes program, offered by the Arizona State Bar, provides free legal services in the areas of wills and probate to Arizona's first responders (police, fire, EMS). The program also offers free wills to the emergency responder's spouse or widow/widower. For information, visit [www.azbar.org/willsforheroes](http://www.azbar.org/willsforheroes).

## ACJC offers training for program income, RICO reports

ACJC staff offered [Program Income Training](#) on Dec. 7 and 14. The training provided Byrne/Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) sub-recipients with official guidelines regarding the definition, use, and calculation of program income generated by the grant funded activities. Future training seminars may be offered.

Training on *How to Complete the Asset Forfeiture Report*, known as the RICO report, will be offered Feb. 22 for county attorney personnel and Feb. 23 for law enforcement agency personnel. For more information, contact Theresa Hoyt at (602) 364-1181.

## Inaugural meeting for crime lab partners

ACJC staff and Arizona crime lab managers met with representatives from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the National Forensic Science and Technology Center (NFSTC) to formulate forensic laboratory performance measures and comprehensive program evaluations. This meeting, held in January, was part of an ongoing partnership. The group discussed the need to update annually the 2002 Needs Assessment Report. The group also discussed monitoring performance of forensic laboratories, grants programs and created a subcommittee to look at statistics needed for performance measurement.

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